

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



*A Publication Concerned With
Natural History and Conservation*

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

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Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on Club activities.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

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Welcome New Members

Ottawa Area

Suzanne Allen & Family
Leon Budziszewski
Laura Doliner & Family
Derek Dunnett
Maria Fleming and Kristen Rading
Tom & Nancy Grace
William Halliday
Andrew N. Jackson & Family
Christine Johnson
Ivan L'Heureux & Family
Alan McKay & Family
Colleen Pellatt & Family
Line Perras
L.H. Peterson and V.S. Bogach
Mike Pollington & Family
Eric von Graevenitz & Family
Aileen Wade
Sara Wright & Family

Gatineau Area

Alice Laidlaw

Henry Steger
Chair, Membership Committee
November 2012

The President's Perspective

January 2013

Looking back and looking ahead

At the Club's Annual Business Meeting in January 2013 I will be stepping down as President. It has been an exciting three years that I have thoroughly enjoyed.



In my first President's Perspective in spring 2010 I stated that I wanted to position the club for the future. Has that been accomplished? Partially. We have made a lot of progress but it is a work-in-progress. So if I haven't finished the job, why am I stepping down? Do not believe the rumour that it is because my hair has lightened considerably over the past three years. I suspect that was going to happen anyway.

The real reason is that I need more "calendar flexibility" than is possible as a responsible president. For Gord's sake, as well as my own, I agreed to free up some of my time commitments while we still had our health to enjoy the travel part of our retirement. But I will still be active in the Club. I am not disappearing. I am confident that Fenja Brodo, the nominee for President, and known to most in the club for her tireless work, will be a great President.

Looking back over the past three years I see a number of new faces, a number of new initiatives and a several big steps moving the Club ahead. As always, it is the people that give the OFNC its energy, its strength and its sense of purpose.

- CFN—now fully electronic and fully functioning with a new editorial team thanks to Dan Brunton for his leadership as Chair of Publications, Jay Fitzsimmons for making all the electronics work and Carolyn Callaghan for embracing her editorial responsibilities with professionalism and enthusiasm.
- Membership—now renewable on line and providing email reminders of events thanks to Henry Steger.

- Fletcher Wildlife Garden—very successful annual plant sales, a Monarch Waystation being created thanks to Diane Lepage, invasives being deterred thanks to Barry Cottam and the place still prospering with a new bridge and shed thanks to all the FWG team. Barry has now agreed to keep things humming—or is that growing?
- Excursions and Lectures—the committee under Jeff Skevington has been quite creative, expanding the number and variety of outings. There are name tags at the monthly meetings and new room rental costs are covered by ads in *T&L*.
- Finances and Administration—Ken Young has valiantly taken over from Frank Pope and shouldered the challenge of Treasurer. Working with a new bookkeeper and accountant, and with help from Barb Chouinard, he is bringing order to our statements and more meaningful information for decision-making.
- Macoun Club—our young people's club has always been a star under Rob Lee and it is even more so with a generous endowment from the Camfield family.
- Birds—a favourite focus for many members, the Birds Committee organizes the bird counts, keeps bird records and a new checklist is in the works. Thanks to Rémy Poulin, and others on the Birds Committee, for recent work with Nature Canada to enhance the Lac Deschênes Important Bird Area.
- Education and Publicity—this committee under Fenja Brodo has been busy designing new ways to promote the Club with banners, lanyards, hand lenses and bookmarks.
- Conservation—we have had to use a group approach for the past year, but now Owen Clarkin has stepped up to give new direction and energy to this very important part of the Club's mission.
- Behind-the-scenes—in a club of this size there is a lot to do that just seems to happen without a lot of fanfare. Karen McLachlan Hamilton and her team produce and mail *T&L* to us every three months. We would not have a website if it was not for Sandra Garland keeping up all the postings and linkages. Annie Bélair makes sure the Council minutes are recorded, accurate and, now, posted on our website.

It has been a real privilege being a part of this enthusiastic and energetic team. I look forward to being involved and contributing in any way I can as the OFNC continues to move forward. It is worth it.

Ann MacKenzie
 annmackenzie@rogers.com

News from the FWG: 2012

Christine Hanrahan

At the wildlife garden, changes and challenges are a given. We could never anticipate the events that unfold as the year progresses, both good and bad. The good includes the great number of outside volunteers who in 2012, arrived for a morning, a few hours, a few weeks, alone, or part of a group, all willing and eager to help with our multitudinous tasks. The not so good would include the fierce heat that arrived early (did we even have a real winter) and, with lack of rain in the heart of summer, created very tough conditions for plants and animals alike. There is always far more news to report on, than there is space, therefore this update contains only a fraction of FWG news from 2012.



Chipping Sparrow at the birdbath in the BYG.

Backyard Garden News

Last year's update noted we had removed the old garden shed and were awaiting the new one. The new shed, now installed, is large, spacious, made of wood, and a great improvement, plus it looks good! A donation in memory of Juliet Hutchings,

provided for a nice new bench at the end of the Backyard Garden (BYG). The same great team who made the previous one, located near the building, Tony, Al and Malcolm, also made the new one, to the same attractive and comfortable design. Many thanks, guys! And speaking of seating . . . a new picnic table was purchased to replace the old one, and has been well used by visitors, who often come to eat lunch there, or have a rest after walking in the garden.

Isabelle has been overseeing the myriad of details that go into keeping the BYG looking healthy and beautiful. The individual beds can look slightly (sometimes very) different from year to year, particularly as we consider new and various plants that attract birds, butterflies and other pollinating insects. Sometimes an existing plant, which we think is perhaps not very useful for wildlife, surprises us with just how many species of wildlife it really attracts. For example, the Garden Phlox near the picnic table was a magnet for both hummingbirds and hummingbird moths, as well as bees and other insects.

Anyone visiting the BYG will understand how much we rely on volunteers for maintaining the site. We are always on the lookout for more bodies! If you like gardening, nature, or enjoy working with congenial companions, and have Friday mornings free, we'd like to hear from you! Volunteers meet from spring through fall. Contact the FWG at either 613-234-6767 or fletcher@ofnc.ca.

Events

Native Plant Sale. As always, the sale was held on the first Saturday in June. Despite rainy weather (some of the last rain we saw for a prolonged period) we raised a very tidy sum of money. Thanks to the wonderful volunteers who grow hundreds upon hundreds of plants from seed for the sale, we had a truly astonishing variety of plants to sell. Because of the new nursery, we were able to carry over plants from last year and thus sell larger ones, which many buyers prefer. The plant sale volunteers spring into action long before the actual sale day. There are not only the plants to be grown and tended, but publicity to arrange, and a veritable army of volunteers to coordinate for the day of the sale. All the paraphernalia needed for the event has to be checked and repairs, if any, made. A ton of work! Kudos and thanks to all.

Corporate and Other Volunteers. We had a terrific number of volunteers in 2012, which enabled us to do many things that might not otherwise have got done so speedily. In late May, a group of Microsoft employees, organized by the Evergreen Foundation, worked on planting trees in the ravine. They also gave a substantial donation which helped with the purchase of good-sized trees. In early June, Price Waterhouse Cooper volunteers spent the day helping Diane in the Butterfly Meadow. In mid-September, a group of 45 Killam Fulbright scholars spent a rainy

day working with Barry and others on a myriad of tasks. Renate was very busy introducing her respective classes to the FWG, including giving them the opportunity to volunteer at assorted tasks. One group came in early May, while a different group of students spent time working on invasive species in the Birch Grove in late September, and again in early October. Several students volunteered their time at the FWG, helping Diane and Barry. In addition to the groups, there were the individuals who came out to participate in the various work bees, either working in the Butterfly Meadow, or helping remove Dog-strangling Vine (DSV). We joined Volunteer Ottawa, and that has also provided us with new volunteers. More volunteer activity can be found under the Butterfly Meadow report below.

Habitats

Butterfly Meadow

The Butterfly Meadow, under the leadership of Diane Lepage, continued its expansion in 2012, including enhanced work on the Model Monarch Waystation which is integrated within the Butterfly Meadow. Money from the Monarch



Black Swallowtail caterpillar (note early instar of the same species behind).

Waystation fund allowed us to pay Budd Nurseries to grow 3,000 plants, something we could not otherwise have done. Once spring came, the plants were delivered and fortunately, volunteers were ready and available for planting. Diane reports that on 1 June, a group of eight very hard-working volunteers from Price Waterhouse Cooper

(PWC) helped to plant hundreds of flowers. A little bit later, on 16 June, 20 folk came out for a work bee, not only helping to prepare the previously rototilled areas, but also doing a lot of the planting. Another contingent of volunteers arrived on 15 July, as part of a second work bee, to continue the work of removing the invasive DSV from the Butterfly Meadow.

Future plans include the installation of a kiosk at the Butterfly Meadow, to provide information about monarch butterflies, monarch waystations, and creating gardens for butterflies and other beneficial insects. Diane will also be working on a few more small paths around and between the planted areas in the meadow, and continuing to work on the wet area developed in 2012.

Despite the intense heat of summer, 2012, Diane's regular volunteers turned up to work on Wednesday evening. As Diane says, it is thanks to them that the meadow looks so beautiful. If you would like to take part in this very rewarding activity, the group meets Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. from late spring to early fall. Check the FWG website (www.ofnc.ca/fletcher.php) in spring for details about the 2013 work season.

Monarch Butterfly Waystation Project

As reported in the last update (Hanrahan, 2012), the FWG was the fortunate recipient in 2011, of a grant from the Fido/Evergreen group, after coming second in a "Share Your Care" contest. A portion of that money was spent on the propagation of 3,000 flowering plants, all known for attracting monarchs and other butterflies, including of course, milkweeds, both common and swamp. Many of those plants went into what we call the Model Monarch Waystation within the Butterfly Meadow. Others were planted in sites away from the meadow, in accordance with our plan to make the entire FWG a Monarch Waystation.

Part of the mandate we developed for the project included providing education and outreach about monarch butterflies, as well as plugging into the greater network of monarch butterfly experts and enthusiasts around Ontario and further afield. Therefore, in May 2012, we held a workshop for people with a demonstrated interest in, and experience with, monarch butterflies and monarch waystations, who could help us develop a workable plan for promoting monarchs and their conservation. Many of the invited attendees are part of the Monarch Teachers Network. We also brought to Ottawa, one of the leaders in monarch butterfly conservation, Don Davis, from Toronto. He not only attended the workshop, but gave a lecture at the Canadian Museum of Nature as part of the OFNC's monthly programs.

We also received our official Monarch Waystation certificate, so we're legal and registered! Displayed in the Interpretive Centre at the FWG are several posters

showing the monarch butterfly life cycle and migratory route.

We have many plans for 2013, so stay tuned to our Monarch Waystation Project pages here: www.ofnc.ca/fletcher/projects/MonarchWaystation/index.php. Our Pbase photo galleries dedicated to monarchs and milkweeds can be found at: www.pbase.com/fwg/monarch_waystation.

Invasive Species

The Tuesday Invasive Species Group (TISG), had a second full year in 2012. Several new volunteers were added to the existing group, and some serious work was undertaken with regard to removing DSV. However, despite scything, pulling and cutting, it was difficult to keep up with the rampant growth. At one point, Barry enlisted the aid of AAFC (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) to mow a section of the New Woods north of the Amphibian Pond. This occurred in mid-July, and while the DSV naturally grew back, so did the grass which, at least for the rest of the summer, held its own with the DSV. We know better than to think that one mowing will control the DSV. If only it was so! However, it has allowed us to consider the use of mowing for certain areas at certain times. One of the problems with full-scale mowing is that other beneficial plants attractive to wildlife, will be cut too. We definitely don't want to revert to the mowed look that was the norm when we first assumed management of the site, 22 years ago. As always, when dealing with invasive species control, there is no one easy answer, and more often than not, different species, and different sites, require different methods of control.

One interesting development was the extensive growth of the non-native White Sweet-clover on the eastern edge of the Old Field, in an area where DSV removal has occurred over some years. From no clover, to a dense stand of it in 2012, was a surprise. At first it appeared that the clover was keeping the DSV at bay, but by mid-summer, the DSV was growing up and amongst the clover. Unfortunately, a large stand of the native flowering raspberry on the southeast side of the Old Field area, which had spread extensively over the last 12 years, and appeared to be almost free of DSV for all that time, was completely taken over by the invasive vine in 2012.

Garlic Mustard is another invasive that grew abundantly in 2012. At one time we thought we'd removed all Garlic Mustard from the garden. Sadly, it was just resting, waiting to spring forth again. And so it did. In 2011, there was quite a growth of it under a thicket of trees on the edge of the Old Field. That was all removed, but in 2012 it was back with a vengeance. The Old Field was mowed in October 2011, and in spring 2012, the Garlic Mustard was flourishing along the service road, near the Butterfly Meadow. Bags of the plant were removed, yet a little later, thousands of tiny Garlic Mustard seedlings were found growing up far from the original site.

Raspberry plants soon grew and shaded the mustard, but we can only imagine what we'll find in 2013!

Under Barry's leadership in 2013, we'll continue working away on the two worst invasives, DSV and Garlic Mustard, while Tony and his helpers will continue with buckthorn removal. Other species vie for our attention, but none are as serious a threat as the three just mentioned. If you have a hankering to help with this important work, please check the FWG website for the start dates of the Tuesday Morning Invasive Species group, or come out on Friday mornings and help Tony, beginning in spring. In the meantime, you can check out the TISG blog at: tisgatfwg.blogspot.com.

Plants and Animals

Birds

It has been a long time since we've seen Evening Grosbeaks in the city, and I've never seen them at the FWG, although Bill Holland recorded them there 20 years ago. Thus, on 31 October I was thrilled to see a small flock of 10 grosbeaks feeding on ash and sumac seeds at the garden. Larose Forest is usually the one sure spot to see this species in the area, but autumn of 2012 saw Evening Grosbeaks reported from many locations around Ontario.

Eastern Kingbirds bred in the garden, as did House Wrens and Common Yellowthroats, species which don't regularly nest in the garden. Green Herons were very much in evidence during the summer, and also in summer, an American Bittern was flushed and flew into the field of buckwheat adjacent to the garden. All our other regular nesting species were present in much the same numbers as in the last few years. House Sparrows continue to be noticeable by their absence.

Insects

Butterflies were *the* insects of note in 2012, beginning with an unprecedented northward migration of Red Admirals and American Ladies in early spring, and continuing through the summer with multiple sightings of Giant Swallowtails in the region, including one at the FWG (thanks, Barry!). Both Red Admirals and American Ladies laid eggs at the garden on, respectively, Stinging Nettle and Pearly Everlasting. Overwintering Mourning Cloaks and Eastern Commas were both seen in mid-March, after a period of unprecedented hot weather at that time (+30°C).

At least eight Fiery Skippers were found across the road at the Ornamental Gardens in August, only the second record for this species in Ottawa. While looking for the Fiery Skippers, one butterfly watcher found a Wild Indigo Duskywing, another first for the region. Naturally, we searched the FWG for these two species but with no luck. With all the nectar available at the Ornamental Gardens, they had no reason to

cross the road!

However, at the FWG, an American Snout was found again, fourth year for this regional rarity. In late summer, Painted Lady butterflies were being seen in great numbers. And then there were the monarch butterflies, which arrived in our area in far better numbers than we've seen for several years. We found a number of caterpillars at the garden, and we enrolled ourselves in the *Monarch Larval Monitoring Program*, run by the University of Minnesota, so that we could record the ones we found.



Praying Mantis, found frequently in 2012.

A couple of new odonates were added to the insect list, a Stream Cruiser and a Spotted Spreadwing. Common Green Darners, often the first dragonfly we see at the garden, were found very early in 2012. Because this species is regularly observed at FWG, we enrolled in the *Dragonfly Watch Program*, which gathers information on arrival and departure dates of Common Green Darners.

Turning to other insects, once again we added a good number of new species, including bugs, beetles, flies, and moths, to our insect inventory. Naturally,

we have recorded only a fraction of what is really there. Dr. Sophie Cardinal and several of her students, conducted a survey of bees in the region, including at the FWG and by so doing, added four more bee species to our list. Photos of many of the species found at the garden in 2012 are on our Pbase photo galleries (www.pbase.com/fwg).

Mammals

For the first time in many years no muskrats were seen in the pond, and the growth of cattails and Flowering-rush was unimpeded by their voracious appetite. In years

past, they have been found collecting quantities of both species, and in some significant way (at least in our pond) helped to control the growth of the invasive Flowering-rush. It was sad to see the pond devoid of these little mammals. Nor did we see any beaver in the pond, which in this case was good, as the habitat is too poor from a beaver's point of view, and can't support them.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Wood Frogs continue to be virtually absent from the pond. In 2011 they were heard, briefly, on only a couple of occasions. This year I didn't hear them at all, although perhaps someone did. American Toads were also less vocal, although definitely present, and the same holds true for the Grey Treefrogs.

From the banner year when our pond supported a couple of Snapping Turtles, a Blanding's Turtle, two or three painted turtles, and even a Red-eared Slider (non-native), to 2012 when turtles were rarely seen. I saw a Snapping Turtle floating in the pond one day in spring, and on a few occasions a small painted turtle, and that was it.

If you are interested in complete lists of what we see, please check out inventories of birds, insects, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, and wildflowers on our website: www.ofnc.ca/fletcher/alphabet.php, and scroll down the list of wildlife-related subjects to find these lists, and much more.

Other

Photo Galleries

We've had our Pbase photo galleries for over 4 ½ years. Visitors to the site come from around the globe, and as of this writing have attracted over 845,560 visitors. There are currently 158 galleries, with over 4,000 images. Galleries cover insects, mammals, birds, wildflowers, a history of the FWG, and many other topics. Most popular are our monthly photo blogs, with contributions from many people, showing the garden and its wildlife through the eyes of visitors from near and far. Please take the time to browse our galleries at: www.pbase.com/fwg and let us know what you think!

New FWG Blog

We have another way of communicating with our friends and fans! Tremayne has started a new text blog for us, where a wide variety of information is posted, from notices to articles. Check it out at: www.fletcherwildlifegarden.wordpress.com.

FWG Newsletter

Our newsletter is now being edited and produced by Tremayne, in full colour. It is distributed electronically every two months. Tremayne has done an amazing job re-

designing the newsletter, adding colourful graphics and illustrations, and perhaps most importantly of all, coming up with terrific ideas for each issue. The last one of 2012 was dedicated to the Monarch Butterfly and received a lot of rave reviews. You can find all the past newsletters at www.ofnc.ca/fletcher/newsletter/index.php. To be added to the mailing list, simply send an email to fletcher@ofnc.ca, with this request in the subject line: I would like to receive the FWG newsletter.

FWG T-shirts

If you happen to see someone sporting a bright green t-shirt, with the FWG logo on the front, then you've come across a volunteer!

Volunteer Opportunities

If you would like to volunteer at the FWG, there are many ways in which you can do so. There is invasive species control, tree planting, or any number of other activities. Regular volunteer groups meet on Friday morning (BYG), Tuesday morning (Invasive Species), and Wednesday evening (Butterfly Meadow), spring through fall. The FWG is run by a Management Committee and they'd be very happy to see new members. You are welcome to drop by one of the regular meetings (always the 4th Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m. (7:00 p.m. in the winter), at FWG and see what the committee does.

Acknowledgments:

As always, thanks to all the volunteers who make FWG happen!

Photos: Christine Hanrahan, except where noted.

References:

Hanrahan, Christine. 2012. News from the FWG: 2011. *T&L* 46(1):9-17.
Lepage, Diane. 2012. Butterfly meadow report. Unpublished.

FWG Details and Contact Information

The FWG is located off Prince of Wales Drive on the Central Experimental Farm. For more information please visit the website at: www.ofnc.ca/fletcher.php. Brochures about the garden are available from the kiosks by the parking lot and in front of the Interpretive Centre.

- FWG phone number: 613-234-6767.
- Website, information about the FWG, Sandra Garland: fletcher@ofnc.ca.
- Newsletter: Tremayne Stanton-Kennedy: fletcher@ofnc.ca.
- Bird and wildlife observations, Christine Hanrahan: vanessa@magma.ca.
- AAFC Security: 613-759-1985.

This time, don't just blame the OMB

How City bungling ballooned Ottawa's new urban area to nearly five times the original intent

Erwin Dreessen¹

The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) is a favourite villain for many poor planning decisions in Ottawa and elsewhere. But the recent series of decisions regarding urban expansion in Ottawa came about in large part as a result of bungling by some City staff and caving-in by Council after the 2009 Official Plan review. As a result, despite Council having approved only 230 ha in 2009, it's now official: 1,104 ha will be added to Ottawa's urban area, a nearly 5-fold increase over Council's original decision.

Back in 2007, City staff projected Ottawa's growth in population, households and employment to 2031 and concluded that the city should expand its urban area by 850 hectares. This was in preparation for a comprehensive review of the Official Plan—Ottawa's key land use planning document. Since 2005 in Ontario, a municipality can expand its urban boundary only following such a comprehensive review.

In part at the request of rural landowners across the City to consider various parcels, planning staff then proceeded to devise a methodology to identify which lands would be selected. Some of these lands were in the Fernbank area in Kanata—163 hectares that were part of a Community Design Plan that had been under consideration for some time. In fact, and not surprisingly, these particular parcels, surrounded by areas that are already urban, achieved top scores using the staff criteria.

How 850 hectares became 1,104 hectares

This is a saga of how 850 ha became 230, then went back to 850 which turned out to mean 1,013; then it became at least 1,065 and eventually 1,104 ha. Partway through, we need to bring "Area 2" into the picture.

¹ Erwin has been involved in land use issues in the national capital area since 1994.

From 850 to 230—and back

The expansion of the urban boundary was just one of several items under review in the Official Plan. When the Official Plan Amendment 76 (OPA 76) reached Council for final approval in May and June 2009, there was significant controversy between the development community, citizens and Councillors, including a demonstration against any urban expansion attended by about 200 people in front of City Hall. In the end, Council did not accept staff's recommendation on urban boundary expansion and scaled it down to just 230 hectares. The 230 hectares it approved included the 163 hectares at Fernbank.

But then the first of several peculiar things happened. At the very same Council meeting at which the by-law for the modified OPA 76 was approved, Council also approved a by-law for OPA 77—which again declared those 163 Fernbank hectares urban. The same parcels of land were approved twice!

One citizen had pointed out that this was irregular but she was ignored. She also pointed out that OPA 77's urban expansion would have to be approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (as was OPA 76) but that comment was ignored as well.

Naturally, just about every developer in town appealed Council's decision to the OMB—arguments had been made that Ottawa's urban area should expand by 2,000 hectares or more. Eighteen months later, these appeals began to be adjudicated. In a decision on Phase 1 of the urban boundary hearings, issued on June 3, 2011, the Board found that Council's decision was not valid and that, in fact, 850 ha was the right number for urban expansion.

Phase 2 dealt with the methodology the City had employed to identify lands suitable for urbanization; the eventual outcome of that phase was to confirm the City's methodology and criteria. Phase 3, which was to begin on July 3, 2012, would get down to determining the actual parcels to be urbanized.

How 850 morphed into 1,013

In the middle of Phase 2, on February 8, 2012, the OMB Panel astounded everyone by casting doubt on what was meant by the 850 hectares that it had determined was the degree of urban expansion Ottawa needed. The Panel chair reiterated the somewhat obscure wording in the Phase 1 Decision, claiming that the 163 hectares of OPA 77 were over and done with and that the Board's determination of 850 hectares would be in addition to that. Jaws dropped. The City lawyer interrupted a Council meeting, shouting that something extraordinary had just happened. Various lawyers representing developers at the hearing commented to the Board that this was not how everyone had understood what the 850 hectares meant and urged the Board

to provide clarity and certainty, otherwise Phase 3 of the hearing would be thrown into chaos.

Even before the end of the Phase 2 hearing, a community organization which had been monitoring the hearing urged the City to immediately seek a review that would clear up the situation, noting that there was not a shred of evidence in the OMB record that supported an interpretation of the meaning of 850 hectares other than what staff had determined in its projections of 2007. On February 22, at the end of the hearing, the City's lawyer informed the group that instructions to clarify the situation had been received "from the highest level." Still, it took more than a month, to March 28, for Legal Services staff to present a motion to Council to formalize those instructions.

The motion called on the City Clerk and Solicitor "to take any necessary steps to confirm that the 850 hectares . . . include the 163 hectares . . . in Fernbank." The motion passed with only one dissent.

Many more weeks went by without any overt initiative by the City to urge the Board to clarify the matter. Then, at the occasion of an OMB Phase 3 pre-hearing conference on May 17, the City put forward a motion which, if accepted, would confirm in a roundabout way that the 850 hectares did include Fernbank's 163 hectares. Most of two days was devoted to debating that motion. Comments by the Panel initially gave reason to think that it clearly understood the source of the confusion. Naturally, most—though not all—landowners argued against the City's motion, seeing a windfall in the offing.

Alas, in the Decision on the motion, issued on June 4, the Board stuck to its earlier interpretation and confirmed that the 850 hectares were on top of Fernbank's 163, claiming the 850 hectares to be "a Board number."

850 hectares had now become 1,013 hectares.

Huntmar Valley ("Area 2")

This new target of 1,013 ha changed the game for Phase 3 and put into play a wedge of land between the Terry Fox Drive Extension and Huntmar Drive in Kanata, referred to as "Area 2." (See photo). To the north, this land rises steeply to a rocky highland, bordering the South March Highlands Conservation Forest. The Carp River forms its southern border—in fact, more than one-third of its 66 hectares is designated flood plain. To the west and southeast are agricultural lands. Already heavily compromised by the construction of Terry Fox Drive along the eastern edge, this area is critical for the maintenance of a wildlife corridor between the forest and



Aerial photo taken in 2000, looking northeast, giving an overview of the South March Highlands region showing the Ottawa River in the background. Source: Canadian Aerial Photo Corporation. The light grey line overlain on this photograph gives the approximate location of the 4 km Terry Fox Drive Extension (TFDE), which delineated the urban boundary before the current expansion. The light grey line was derived from the TFDE environmental assessment report. Area 2 is in the foreground, bounded by the Hazeldean Escarpment to the north, the TFDE, the Carp River, and Huntmar Drive.

the river. Comments by the community had been very clear: Area 2 should not be developed, though staff had proposed that it could be.

Belatedly, just days before the start of the Phase 3 hearing, in a report recommending a position from Council for that final Phase of the hearing, planning staff came to agree with the community's assessment. The City's senior environmental planner recommended that the developable portion of Area 2 be reduced to zero, based on its function as an eco-corridor and because it was highly likely that the Ministry of Natural Resources would declare it habitat for Blanding's Turtles, a federally- and provincially-listed "threatened" species.



Photo taken by Christopher Busby on June 3, 2012 outside his home in the Carp Hills. A four-year study on the habitat of Blanding's Turtles around Terry Fox Drive is underway.

The Year 2 report of a four-year study on Blanding's Turtles—a condition out of the environmental assessment of the construction of the Terry Fox Drive Extension—had just become available. Ten of the 75 Blanding's Turtles observed in the area had been outfitted with radio antennas so that their movement could be monitored. One had been observed to have moved back and forth along the southern edge of Area 2.

Observations of Area 2 proper had only been cursory because it was, and is, not the main focus of the study. But the absence of direct Blanding's Turtle observations in Area 2 was enough for the landowner's biologist to claim that there was no evidence that Area 2 was potential turtle habitat. The Planning Committee and, the following day, Council, bought that argument and the development potential of Area 2—39 ha—was restored back to what it had been previously.

At that same Planning Committee meeting (on June 26, 2012), staff also recommended a way to break ties in scoring. (There were in fact three parcels vying for “last in” at 48 points.) Staff suggested that the parcel or parcels that brought the total acreage closest to the desired objective (now 1,013 ha) should be allowed in. (See map for the expansion staff recommended at this stage of the process.) Urged on by developers, Planning Committee and Council disagreed, deciding that, in case of a tie, all such parcels should become urban. In effect, Council was now recommending that Ottawa's urban area should expand by 1,065 hectares, 25 percent more than the level staff had recommended in 2009.

Errors in scoring not brought forward

The readiness of wastewater infrastructure is one of the elements that forms the basis for awarding points under staff's evaluation methodology. Area 2 was awarded six points meaning that it qualified halfway between “requiring moderate upgrades” (4 points) and “existing trunk sewers and/or pump stations having residual capacity to service the area with no or minimal investment” (8 points).

At the June 26 Planning Committee meeting, a citizen noted that the Master Servicing Study for Kanata West demonstrated that in fact no pump station capacity was left to serve Area 2. He also quoted from a presentation by the landowner's lawyer back in 2009, who pleaded with Councillors to install bigger pipes during the construction of Terry Fox Drive so that Area 2 could be serviced in the future. But that was not done. The citizen asked if it was therefore correct to award this area six points. Unfortunately, infrastructure staff was not present to answer the question. The City lawyer only confirmed that, indeed, the pipes did not have the capacity to service Area 2—upgrades would have to be done at the expense of the developer. The specific issue of the validity of the score was not answered.

A memorandum obtained through access to information tells the real story. In an email to his superior dated June 8, 2012, forwarded to the key City witness for these hearings on June 11, a senior project engineer concluded that “based on upgrades and infrastructure designed and/or constructed since [the 2009 evaluation] was undertaken,” “the wastewater score for Area 2 should be reduced from 6 points to 0 points.” The memo went on to explain, in seven bullets and with two exhibits, the technical grounds for this conclusion. The access to information request turned up

no counters to this advice.

Had this information been conveyed to Committee on June 26 or Council the next day, or at the Phase 3 hearing that started on July 3, Area 2 would have been declared ineligible for urbanization at this time.

The final count

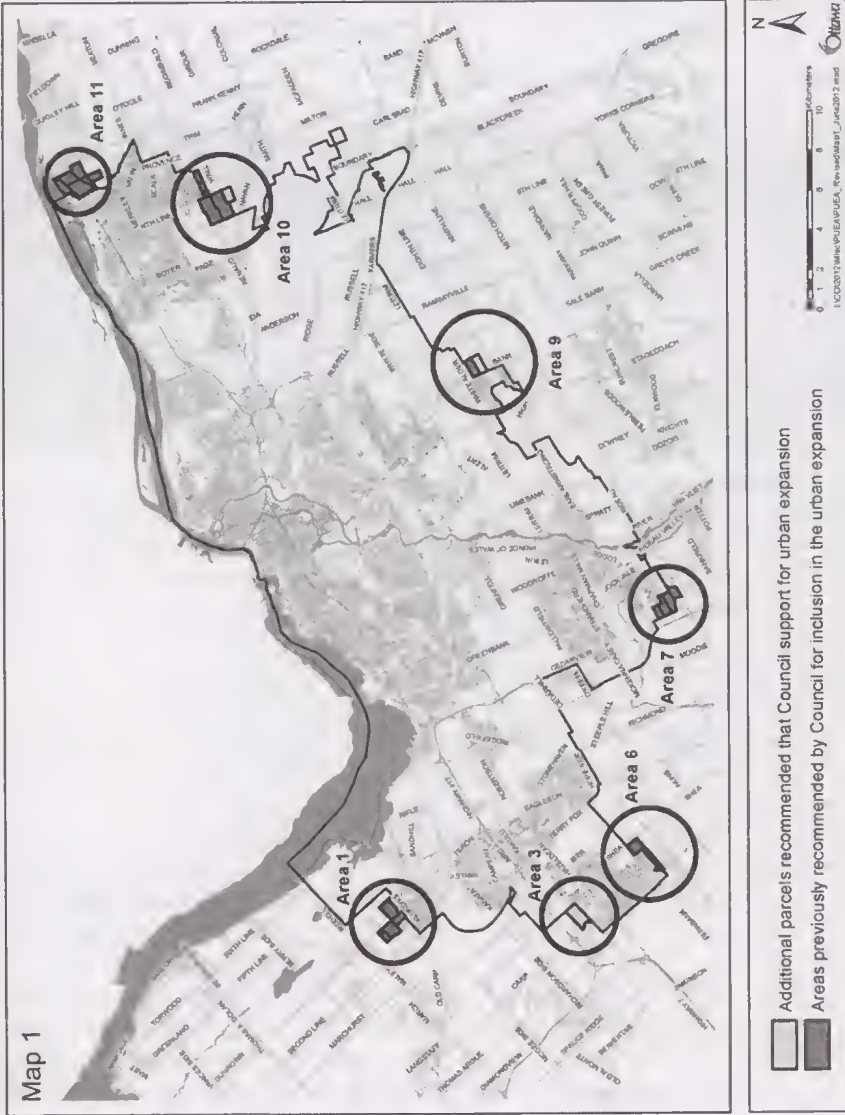
With the score for Area 2's wastewater infrastructure readiness unchallenged, the rug pulled out from under staff's argument about Area 2 being unsuitable for environmental reasons, plus the caving-in by Council to developers' solutions on breaking tied scores, the City presented a motion at the start of the Phase 3 hearing that all parcels scoring 48 points or more be urbanized. The Board agreed.

Just two minor questions were then left to be determined in Phase 3: the fate of one 39-hectare parcel awarded 2 points short of the magic score of 48; and another parcel rejected halfway through the evaluation process because of its adjacency to DND's Connaught Rifle Range. On August 22 the Board issued its decision that the latter needed more work before it could be declared urban, but awarded the former two more points so that it too reached the threshold of 48 points. This added another 39 ha to the urban area, now bringing the final total to 1,104 ha.

With an additional 1,104 ha Ottawa is expanding its urban area 30% above the originally determined need of 850 hectares, and 4.8 times more than what Council originally approved. Let's recap how this amazing result came about:

- + staff laid the groundwork for confusion by having Council approve 163 hectares as urban twice;
- + the OMB made a determination which has no basis in the evidence it heard;
- + staff repeatedly delayed action in getting the matter cleared up and then attempted to do so in a roundabout way which failed;
- + Council was persuaded by flimsy arguments made by the landowner of Area 2, rejecting the professional opinion of the City's own senior environmental planner;
- + Council remained in the dark about a needed correction in the scoring for wastewater service at Area 2, which would have been fatal for its suitability for development;
- + Council opted for further expansion by refusing to adopt a tie-breaking rule, again against the advice of staff;
- + the OMB added the final touch by allowing in another area.

Now if you think that the development industry would be satisfied with these major victories, think again. At that same June 26 Planning Committee meeting, Councillors also had before them the workplan for the next round of Official Plan



This map of urban expansion areas was presented to Planning Committee on June 26, 2012, but then Councillors added more land in Area 2 and Area 8, and the OMB in its final decision added more land still in Area 1.

Review, to be concluded in 2014. Staff demonstrated that maintaining the planning horizon at 2031 would amply satisfy provincial policy requirements. But that didn't stop the Greater Ottawa Home Builders Association from proposing a bargain: set the horizon further out and we promise, they said, that none of our members will appeal the additional urban expansion that this longer horizon would inevitably entail.

Councillors didn't fall for it. But it's a long way to 2014.

Turkey Vultures

Murray Citron

Food is what matters. Those featherless ugly heads
Are perfect to plunge in fluid, flesh and fat
And seize out nutrients and leave the shreds
That cycle back into the habitat.

When the vulture chicks are fledged the families
Form kettles: funnel clouds that move along
Cliff-faces, streams, and over fields and trees.
Flying and feeding. It's how they teach their young,

The grownups glide on thermals in the sky,
And they are eloquent. They soar and sway,
Black keels, black sails, that signal from up high
That death is graceful, seen from far away.

A Mud Lake, Guide Yourself Field Trip, with Turtles

Ian Whyte



Last spring was a great time for turtles at Mud Lake. They were easy to observe and their numbers were high all spring. The walk to see them is level, dry and quite short; well within the reach of almost everyone. And, wow, seeing all those turtles jammed in together was a wondrous sight! It seemed as if every log in the corner of the bay was covered with turtles, sometimes more than one deep.

Midland Painted Turtles, the only Britannia species not on the "Ontario's Species At Risk" list, were by far the most numerous. On some days up to a few Snapping Turtles (Special Concern species) could be found, and two or three times a Blanding's Turtle or two (Threatened species) was present.

They were most visible along the south shore on logs, especially looking north at the bridge. They went from none on 25 March to eight on the 27th to "lots" on the 30th. My big day was 232 on 8 April and another observer, Dan Brunton, counted over 500 a day or two later. On 6 May there were 158 and on the 7th, 85.

Park on Cassels Street, go south onto the path at the western entranceway, follow the path to the south side of the Lake and be sure to go at least as far as the wooden bridge. On the south side part way along, take the turn which roughly follows the lakeshore (see the map <http://goo.gl/maps/JiNV5> if necessary).



Do yourself a favour, mark your calendar and go see the turtles this spring!

Moths of the Larose Forest

Diane Lepage

Introduction

Larose Forest is 45 minutes east of Ottawa. The main block is approximately 7,280 hectares (18,000 acres) and with its habitat diversity, including forested areas, roadside edges and wetlands, attracts a tremendous variety of moths. Though we can see moths flying during the daytime, most observations are at night.

Few people pay much attention to moths, in part because they are largely nocturnal and seem, therefore, a mysterious group. As well, most are small and attract little attention, though we may occasionally notice a few flying around the lights at our cottage or house. Yet, when we stop and look at moths, we discover that many are varied in shape and pattern, and can be as colourful and as beautiful as butterflies.

More than 11,000 species of moths are currently recognized in North America, of which, 1,500 are found in Canada. In the Larose Forest,

over 351 species have been observed since 2007. Many moths don't come to lights, and so there will always be a proportion that will be difficult to find. Nonetheless, by surveying many different parts of the forest, I have formed a reasonably accurate idea of the numbers and diversity there. With few exceptions, I found that each outing yielded species new to the Larose Forest list, indicating that there are many more species yet to be discovered.



Polyphemus moth, Antheraea polyphemus.

The distinction between micro- and macro-moths has more to do with taxonomy than it does with size. For the most part, micro-moths are relatively small and macro-moths relatively large, but each group has its exceptions. Identification of these micro-moths has been, until recently, difficult for me, due to the lack of good guides. However, with the new field guides now available, I should be able to identify more of the micro-moths and therefore add many more species to the existing list of Larose Forest moths (www.ofnc.ca/conservation/larose/moths.php).



Small-eyed Sphinx, Paonias myops.

The Importance of Moths

Moths are important pollinators. They go to flowers looking for nectar and by doing so, transfer pollen from one flower to another.

Among the more significant moth pollinators are the hawk moths (Sphingidae). You can see them hover in front of flowers with

rapid wing beats. Other moths fly slowly and settle on the flower to nectar, generally on small flowers. It is not unusual to see moths sitting on a flower for a long time.

Flight Periods

The flight periods can change each year and depend considerably on the type of spring we get. If it is a warm spring we should be able to see a few species by mid-April, but most of my outings in the forest were done between May and September. It is possible to see moths during October and November if the evenings are very warm, but no outings were done during that period. The best and most interesting period to observe moths in Larose Forest is June and July. This is when the hot temperatures encourage many species to emerge. The ideal time to go out is during a hot evening, between 24°C and 35°C, preferably with a cloudy sky, no moon or wind. Some species can be encountered nearly all summer, whereas others fly only during a three or four week window. Several species raise two broods, meaning adults are encountered in two different non-overlapping periods; others emerge from

their cocoons in the fall and then overwinter as adults, waking from hibernation to fly again in the spring.



False Hemlock Looper, Nepytia canosaria.

Habitat and Host Plants

As noted above, the forest has a diversity of habitat and therefore, a diversity of plants. Because most moths require very specific larval host plants, it is easy to see that the more types of plants there are, the greater the

variety of moth species we will find. Typically, moths will be found in the general vicinity of their larval host plants.

Moth Taxonomy

Taxonomy is a difficult topic. According to Beadle and Leckie (2012), "Taxonomy is always changing as new research and studies reveal more about the relationships between species; species are moved from one group to another or are lumped or split to form new species."

As noted on the Lepidopterists Society website, <http://www.lepsoc.org>,

"Taxonomists strive to provide unambiguous names that give accurate information on the degree of similarity among organisms. Taxonomic tools include anatomical examination, study of behaviour, molecular techniques, and statistical analysis. Taxonomy is a discipline within the science of systematics."

Contrary to a few taxonomic groups, moths do not provide standardized common names and many have no French equivalent. It is sometimes very hard to identify some of the moths by looking at a photo, because you need to look at upper and undersides of their wings. There is considerable variation in wing patterns and some need to be dissected for a positive identification. So in some cases the moths photographed and observed in Larose Forest were not added to the list.

Location

I have no problem finding different places to set up my black light in the forest. I've observed moths on all the concession roads, as well as Road 25, Gagnon and Perron roads, and a few other areas. All these locations are good, but I find that Concessions 8 and 10 are probably the best places for seeing the greatest moth diversity, as the habitats along both of these roads is especially attractive for moths. In 2012, I decided to explore a number of other locations not visited previously. In so doing, I discovered many other moth species I had not seen in the forest. I choose my locations based primarily on the tree species present, then I consider how quiet the areas are (for example, no cars or ATVs). Typically, I look for areas that are easily accessible and alongside trails on the edge of wooded areas. I'm looking forward to discovering more new locations and, of course, more new moths in subsequent years in the forest.

How to Observe Moths

Moths can be seen everywhere.

They can be found in the city, your backyard and in the country,

providing you have the plants around for the caterpillars to feed on (larval host plants).

Observing moths is easy, just turn on a light! Better still, use a black



Confused Haploa, Haploa confusa.

light attached to a battery, placed over a white sheet that is strung between two supporting structures (usually trees). Some moths can be found flying during daytime near their host plants. At night, just wait for them to land on the white sheet or nearby. Some species are not attracted to artificial light but are nectar-feeders, and will come to sugar bait. The bait typically uses molasses, beer, brown sugar, yeast, and sometimes soft banana, which is painted onto tree trunks with a brush. The majority of the observations in Larose Forest were done using the black light.

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Author's name and title.

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CEMC 2015

OFNC SOIRÉE



PLACE: St. Basil's Parish Church

940 Rex Ave, Ottawa (GPS Address: 899 Maitland Ave.)
On east side of Maitland Avenue), 200 m north of the
Queensway.

BUS ACCESS: Bus # 85 (along Carling Ave.) and get off at
Maitland Ave. Walk 500 m south along Maitland (towards
Queensway). St. Basil's is on the left (east side). Or take bus
number 156 along Maitland to St. Basil's.

RESERVATIONS: Adults \$12 in advance, children
free. No tickets will be issued, but your name tag will be ready.
Fill in the Order Form on the opposite page and mail it with a
cheque by 10 April 2013 to:

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club
Box 35069 Westgate P.O.
Ottawa, ON, K1Z 1A2

Admission at the door: \$15.

Awards Night with Wine & Cheese

Saturday, 20 April 2013, 7:00 p.m.

- Wines, non-alcoholic punch, cheese & crackers, fruits & vegetables, desserts, tea & coffee
- Join us at our annual social evening and meet fellow area naturalists
- Celebrate this year's Award winners
- Call out answers to our lighthearted nature quiz
- Bid on silent auction items. To donate natural history books etc. for auction call Fenja at 613-723-2054
- See the new art displays. Member photographers, painters and other artists are invited to exhibit their works for attendees to jury.
- Photo submissions: Mounted work preferred, 4"x 6" min. Non-mounted is fine too; we will mount them on Bristol board. Bring works to St. Basil's at 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on April 20.
- We invite Macoun Field Club members and children (under 18 years) to bring and present natural history displays.

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

Will you exhibit photographs or art?	Yes	No	Maybe
Will your child/children bring an exhibit?	Yes	No	Maybe

Adult admissions..... @ \$12.00 = _____
(Children Free); Cheque Enclosed

Attendee Names _____

An overview of some of the more interesting moths found in Larose Forest

Moths are interesting to observe with their different colours, shapes, and patterns. Some of them can be special to the observer. You can find various Sphinx species in

Larose Forest, but the most exciting one was seen on 25 June 2010, near Concession 10 when a few of us were treated to a first time observed Pawpaw sphinx (*Dolba hyloeus*).

On 12 June 2009, while out on Concession 8, I had a chance to see five of our largest moth, the Cecropia Moth



False Crocus Geometer, Xanthotype urticaria.

(*Hyalophara cecropia*) that visited the white sheet—I was happy when they stayed around for the rest of the evening. The family Notodontida, the Prominents, catch our attention because they have a short thoracic crest, or tufts of hairlike scales, and some will mimic twigs by rolling their wings into a tube. Among the Prominents, it is always a pleasure to see a Black-rimmed Prominent (*Pheosia rimosa*), White Furcula (*Furcula borealis*) and Chocolate Prominent (*Peridea ferruginea*). In the large superfamily Geometroidea it is easy to get excited, because so many of them are beautiful. The White-ribboned Carpet and the Scallop Shell are two Geometrid moths that will draw observers' interest, but getting any of the Emerald moths with their green wings coming to the light is a joy, especially the handsome Blackberry Looper (*Chlorochlamys chloroleucaria*) which can be occasional seen. The Family Eribidae—the Tiger moths—is a family of very colourful moths. It is always a delight to see the Virgin Tiger Moth (*Grammia virgo*) with its red and black underwings. The Pearly Wood-Nymph (*Eudryas unio*) of the Noctuoidea superfamily is very beautiful with their long forelegs covered in downy tufts that splay outward at rest. The most exciting sighting was early on the evening of 4 July 2011 on Concession 8, when a large micro-moth, the Gold-spotted Ghost Moth (*Sthenopsis auratus*), from the Family Hepialidae, came to the black light. These are just a few of the interesting moths that can be seen in Larose Forest.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Chris Schmidt and Louis Handfield for their help in providing information about the taxonomy of the macro-moths, Louis Handfield and Jason

Dombroskie for the micro-moths, and Christine Hanrahan for providing help with the writing of this article.

Photos

Diane Lepage

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<http://www.pbase.com/m3ling/dkdmoths>

<http://bugguide.net/node/view/82/bgimage>

<http://mothphotographersgroup.msstate.edu/WalkThroughIndex.shtml>

DREPANIDAE

<i>Drepana arcuata</i>	Arched Hooktip
<i>Drepana bilineata</i>	Two-lined Hooktip
<i>Eudeilinea herminiata</i>	Northern Eudeilinea
<i>Euthyatira pudens</i>	Dogwood Thyatirid
<i>Habrosyne scripta</i>	Lettered Habrosyne
<i>Oreta rosea</i>	Rose Hooktip

URANIIDAE

Epipleminae	
<i>Calledapteryx dryopterata</i>	Brown Scoopwing

LASIOCAMPIDAE

<i>Malacosoma americana</i>	Eastern Tent Caterpillar Moth
<i>Malacosoma disstria</i>	Forest Tent Caterpillar Moth
<i>Phyllodesma americana</i>	Lappet Moth
<i>Tolyte laricis</i>	Larch Tolyte

SATURNIDAE

<i>Actias luna</i>	Luna Moth
<i>Antheraea polyphemus</i>	Polyphemus Moth
<i>Dryocampa rubicunda</i>	Rosy Maple Moth
<i>Hyalophora cecropia</i>	Cecropia Moth

SPHINGIDAE

<i>Ceratomia undulosa</i>	Wave Sphinx
<i>Darapsa pholus</i>	Azalea Sphinx
<i>Dolba hyloeus</i>	Pawpaw Sphinx
<i>Hemaris diffinis</i>	Snowberry Clearwing
<i>Hemaris thysbe</i>	Hummingbird Moth (Common Clearwing)
<i>Lapara bombycoides</i>	Pine Sphinx
<i>Pachysphinx modesta</i>	Modest Sphinx
<i>Paonias excaecatus</i>	Blinded Sphinx
<i>Paonias myops</i>	Small-eyed Sphinx
<i>Smerinthus cerisyi</i>	One-eyed Sphinx
<i>Smerinthus jamaicensis</i>	Twin-spotted Sphinx
<i>Sphecodina abbottii</i>	Abbot's Sphinx
<i>Sphinx drupiferarum</i>	Wild Cherry Sphinx
<i>Sphinx gordius</i>	Apple Sphinx
<i>Sphinx kalmiae</i>	Laurel Sphinx
<i>Sphinx poecila</i>	Northern Apple Sphinx

GEOMETRIDAE

<i>Anacamptodes ephyraria</i>	Pale-winged Gray
<i>Anagoga occiduaria</i>	American Barred Umber Moth
<i>Anavitrinella pampinaria</i>	Common Gray
<i>Anticlea vasilhata</i>	Variable Carpet Moth
<i>Aplocera plagiata</i>	Treble-bar Moth
<i>Archiearis infans</i>	The Infant
<i>Besma quercivoraria</i>	Oak Besma
<i>Biston betularia cognataria</i>	Pepper and Salt Geometer
<i>Cabera erythemaria</i>	Yellow-dusted Cream Moth
<i>Cabera quadrifasciaria</i>	Four-lined Cabera Moth
<i>Campea perlata</i>	Pale Beauty
<i>Caripeta angustiorata</i>	Brown Pine Looper
<i>Caripeta divisata</i>	Gray Spruce Looper
<i>Caripeta piniata</i>	Northern Pine Looper
<i>Cepphis decoloraria</i>	Dark Scallop Moth
<i>Chlorochlamys chloroleucaria</i>	Blackberry Looper Moth
<i>Cladara atroliturala</i>	The Scribbler
<i>Cladara limitaria</i>	Mottled Gray Carpet
<i>Dichorda iridaria</i>	Showy Emerald
<i>Dyspteris abortivaria</i>	Bad-wing Moth
<i>Dysstroma hersiliata</i>	Orange-barred Carpet
<i>Ectropis crepuscularia</i>	The Small Engrailed Moth
<i>Ennomos subsignaria</i>	Elm Spanworm Moth
<i>Epirrhoe alternata</i>	White-banded Toothed Carpet
<i>Eubaphe mendica</i>	The Beggar
<i>Euchlaena effecta</i>	Effective Euchlaena Moth
<i>Euchlaena irraria</i>	Least-marked Euchlaena
<i>Euchlaena obtusaria</i>	Obtuse Euchlaena
<i>Euchlaena serrata</i>	The Saw-Wing
<i>Eufidonia convergaria</i>	Pine Powder Moth
<i>Eufidonia notataria</i>	Powder Moth
<i>Eufidonia discospilata</i>	Sharp-lined Powder Moth
<i>Eugonobapta nivosaria</i>	Snow Geometer Moth
<i>Eulithis diversilincata</i>	Lesser Grapevine Looper Moth
<i>Eulithis explanata</i>	White Eulithis
<i>Eulithis gracilineata</i>	Greater Grapevine Looper
<i>Eulithis serrataria</i>	Serrated Eulithis
<i>Euphyia unangulata intermedia</i>	Sharp-angled Carpet Moth
<i>Eupithecia miserulata</i>	Common Moth
<i>Eupithecia ravocostaliata</i>	Tawny Moth

GEOMETRIDAE cont'd

Entrapela clemataria
Heterophleps refusaria
Heterophleps triguttaria
Hethemia pistasciaria
Homochlodes fritillaria
Horisme intestinata
Hydrelia inornata
Hydrelia lucata
Hydriomena divisaria
Hydriomena pluvialis
Hypagyrtis piniata
Hypagyrtis unipunctata
Idaea dimidiata
Idaea obfusaria
Iridopsis humaria
Iridopsis larvaria
Itame pustularia
Lambdina fiscellaria
Lobocleta peralbata
Lobophora nivigerata
Lomographa glomeraria
Lomographa semiclarata
Lytrosis unitaria
Macaria aemulataria
Macaria bisignata
Macaria minorata
Macaria notata
Macaria oweni
Macaria pinistrobata
Macaria sexmaculata
Macaria transitaria
Melanolophia canadaria
Melanolophia signataria
Mesolenca ruficillata
Metanema determinata
Metanema inatormaria
Metarranthis indeclinata
Nematocampa resistaria

Curve-toothed Geometer
Three-patched Bigwig Moth
Three-spotted Fillip
Pistachio Emerald Moth
Pale Homochlodes
Brown Bark Carpet Moth
Hydrelia inornata
Light Carpet Moth
Black-dashed Hydriomena
Lesser Grapevine Looper
Pine Measuringworm Moth
One-spotted Variant Moth
Single-dotted Wave Moth
Rippled Wave
Small Purplish Gray
Bent-line Gray Moth
Lesser Maple Spanworm Moth
Hemlock Looper

Powdered Bigwing
Gray Spring Moth
Bluish Spring Moth
Common Litrosis
Common Angle
Red-headed Inchworm
Minor Angle Moth
Birch Angle
Owen's Larch Granite
White Pine Angle moth
Six-spotted Angle Moth
Blurry Chocolate Angle
Canadian Melanolophia
Signate Melanolophia
White-ribboned Carpet
Dark Metanema
Pale Metanema
Pale Metarranthis Moth
Horned Spanworm (formally
Nematocampa limbata)

GEOMETRIDAE cont'd

<i>Nemoria bistriaria siccifolia</i>	Red-fringed Emerald
<i>Nepytia canosaria</i>	False Hemlock Looper
<i>Operophtera bruceata</i>	Bruce Spanworm
<i>Orthonama centrostrigaria</i>	Bent-line Carpet
<i>Orthonama obstipata</i>	The Gem
<i>Pero anctaria</i>	Hubner's Pero
<i>Pero honestaria</i>	Honest Pero
<i>Petrophora subaequaria</i>	Northern Petrophora
<i>Phaeoura quernaria</i>	Oak Beauty
<i>Plagodis alcoolaria</i>	Hollow-Spotted Plagodis
• <i>Plagodis kuetzingi</i>	Purple Plagodis
<i>Plagodis phlogosaria iris</i>	Straight-lined Plagodis
<i>Plagodis pulveraria occiduaria</i>	American Barred Umber
<i>Plagodis serinaria</i>	Lemon Plagodis
<i>Probole alienaria</i>	Alien Probole
<i>Probole amicaria</i>	Friendly Probole
<i>Protoarmia porcelaria</i>	Porcelain Gray Moth
<i>Prochoerodes transversata</i>	Large Maple Spanworm
<i>Rheumaptera hastata</i>	Spear-Marked Black
<i>Rheumaptera prunivorata</i>	Cherry Scallop Shell
<i>Scopula cacuminaria</i>	Frosted Tan Wave Moth
<i>Scopula inductata</i>	Soft-lined Wave
<i>Scopula limboundata</i>	Large Lace-border Moth
<i>Sicya macularia</i>	Sharp-lined Yellow
<i>Speranza anataria</i>	
<i>Speranza pustularia</i>	Lesser Maple Spanworm
<i>Speranza ribearia</i>	Currant Spanworm
<i>Tacparia deterrenta</i>	Pale Alder
<i>Tetracis cachexiata</i>	White Slant-Line
<i>Tetracis crocallata</i>	Yellow Slant-Line
<i>Trichodezia albovittata</i>	White-striped Black
<i>Venusia comptaria</i>	Brown-shaded Carpet Moth
<i>Xanthorhoe ferrugata</i>	Red Twin-Spot
<i>Xanthorhoe lacustrata</i>	Toothed Brown Carpet
<i>Xanthotype sospeta</i>	Crocus Geometer
<i>Xanthotype urticaria</i>	False Crocus Geometer

EREBIDAE: Arctiinae

<i>Arctia caja</i>	Great Tiger Moth
<i>Cisseps fulvicollis</i>	Yellow-collared Scape Moth
<i>Ctenucha virginica</i>	Virginia Ctenucha
<i>Cycnia tenera</i>	Delicate Cycnia
<i>Eilema bicolor</i>	Bicolored Moth
<i>Euchaetes egle</i>	Milkweed Tussock Moth
<i>Grammia virgo</i>	Virgin Tiger Moth
<i>Halysidota tessellaris</i>	Pale Tussock Moth
<i>Haploa confusa</i>	Confused Haploa
<i>Haploa contigua</i>	The Neighbor
<i>Hyphantria cunea</i>	Fall Webworm
<i>Hypoprepia fucosa tricolor</i>	Painted Lichen Moth
<i>Lophocampa maculata</i>	Spotted Tussock Moth
<i>Phragmatobia assimilans</i>	Large Ruby Tiger Moth
<i>Phragmotobia fuliginosa</i>	Ruby Tiger Moth
<i>Pyrharctia isabella</i>	Isabella Tiger Moth
<i>Spilosoma virginica</i>	Virginia Tiger Moth
<i>Virbia laeta</i>	Joyful Virbia

EREBIDAE: Lymantriinae

<i>Dasychira vagans</i>	Variable Tussock Moth
<i>Orgyia antiqua</i>	Rusty Tussock Moth
<i>Orgyia leucostigma</i>	White-marked Tussock Moth

EREBIDAE: remaining subfamilies

<i>Amolita fessa</i>	Feeble Grass Moth
<i>Caenurgina crassiuscula</i>	Clover Looper Moth
<i>Catocala cara</i>	Darling Underwing
<i>Catocala unijuga</i>	Once-Married Underwing
<i>Colobochyla interpuncta</i>	Yellow-lined Owlet
<i>Euclidia cuspidata</i>	Toothed Sombrewing
<i>Hypena abalienalis</i>	White-lined Bomolocha
<i>Hypena baltimoralis</i>	Baltimore Bomolocha
<i>Hypena bijugalis</i>	Dimorphic Bomolocha
<i>Hypena manalis</i>	Flowing-line Bomolocha
<i>Hypena palparia</i>	Mottled Bomolocha
<i>Idia aemula</i>	Common Idia
<i>Lascoria ambigua</i>	Ambiguous Moth
<i>Metalectra discalis</i>	Common Fungus Moth
<i>Palthis angulalis</i>	Dark-spotted Palthis Moth

EREBIDAE: remaining subfamilies cont'd

<i>Pangrapta decoralis</i>	Decorated Owlet
<i>Parallelia bistriaris</i>	Maple Looper Moth
<i>Renia sobrialis</i>	Sober Renia
<i>Rivula propinqualis</i>	Spotted Grass Moth
<i>Zale horrida</i>	Horrid Zale
<i>Zale lunata</i>	Lunate Zale
<i>Zale lunifera</i>	Bold-based Zale
<i>Zale minerea</i>	Colorful Zale
<i>Zanclognatha laevigata</i>	Variable Zanclognatha
<i>Zanclognatha obscuripennis</i>	Dark Zanclognatha
<i>Zanclognatha</i> sp.	Zanclognatha

NOCTUIDAE

<i>Acronicta americana</i>	American Dagger Moth
<i>Acronicta dactylina</i>	Fingered Dagger
<i>Acronicta impleta</i>	Yellow-haired Dagger Moth
<i>Acronicta impressa</i>	Impressed Dagger Moth
<i>Acronicta innotata</i>	Unmasked Dagger Moth
<i>Acronicta lobeliae</i>	Greater Oak Dagger Moth
<i>Acronicta longa</i>	Long-winged Dagger
<i>Acronicta obliqua</i>	Smeared Dagger Moth
<i>Acronicta noctivaga</i>	Night-Wandering Dagger Moth
<i>Acronicta retardata</i>	Retarded Dagger Moth
<i>Acronicta superans</i>	Splendid Dagger
<i>Agriopodes fallax</i>	Green Marvel
<i>Alypia octomaculata</i>	Eight-Spotted Forester
<i>Anaplectoides prasina</i>	Green Arches
<i>Apamea amputatrix</i>	Yellow-headed Cutworm Moth
<i>Balsa tristrigella</i>	Three-lined Balsa Moth
<i>Callopietria cordata</i>	Silver-spotted Fern Moth
<i>Callopietria mollissima</i>	Pink-Shaded Fern Moth
<i>Calyptra canadensis</i>	Canadian Owllet
<i>Charadra deridens</i>	Laughter Moth
<i>Chrysanympia formosa</i>	Formosa Looper
<i>Chytolita petrealis</i>	Stone-winged Owllet Moth
<i>Chytonix palliatricula</i>	Cloaked Marvel
<i>Colocasia flavicornis</i>	The Yellowhorn
<i>Colocasia propinquinella</i>	Closebanded Yellowhorn Moth
<i>Condica videns</i>	White-dotted Groundling
<i>Conservula anodonta</i>	Sharp Angle Shades

NOCTUIDAE cont'd

Cucullia asteroides
Cucullia convexipennis
Cucullia florea
Deltote bellicula
Diachrysia balluca
Enargia decolor
Eudryas unio
Eueretagrotis sigmoides
Euplexia benesimilis
Eurois occulta
Euxoa obeliscoides
Euxoa tessellata
Faronta diffusa
Feltia jaculifera
Feralia comstocki
Harrisimemna trisignata
Homophoberia apicosa
Hydraecia stramentosa
Hyppa xylinoides
Lacinipolia lorea
Lacinipolia renigera
Leuconycta lepidula
Lithophane pexata
Maliattha synochitis
Mamestra curialis
Melanchra adjuncta
Melanchra assimilis
Morrisonia evicta
Morrisonia latex
Mythimna unipuncta
Noctua pronuba
Ochropleura implecta
Orthodes detracta
Orthosia revicta
Panthea acronyctoides
Panthea furcilla
Papaipema arctivorens
Phlogophora iris
Phlogophora periculosa
Polia nimbosa

Asteroid Moth
Brown Hooded Owlet
Gray hooded-owlet
Bog Lithacodia Moth
Green-patched Looper
Pale Enargia
Pearly Wood-Nymph
Sigmoid Dart
American Angle Shades
Great Brocade Moth
Obelisk Dart Moth
Tessellate Dart
Wheat Head Armyworm Moth
Dingy Cutworm Moth
Compstock's Sallow
Harris's Three-Spot Moth
Black Wedge-Spot

Common Hyppa
Bridled Arches
Bristly Cutworm Moth
Marbled-green Leuconycta
Plush-naped Pinion
Black-dotted Lithacodia Moth
Scriptes Arches
Hitched Arches
Melanchra assimilis
Bicolored Woodgrain
Fluid Arches
The White-speck
Large Yellow Underwing
Flame-shouldered Dart Moth
Disparaged Arches
Speckled Green Fruitworm Moth
Black Zigzag
Eastern Panthea Moth
Northern Burdock Borer
Olive Angle Shades
The Brown Angle Shades
Stormy arches

NOCTUIDAE cont'd

Ponometia candefacta
Protodeltote muscosula
Pseudeustrotia carneola

Pseudohermionassa bicarnea
Raphia frater
Renia factiosalis
Schinia florida
Scoliopteryx libatrix
Spiramater lutra
Xestia badicollis
Xylena curvimacula

NOLIDAE

Baileya doubledayi
Baileya ophthalmica
Marathyssa sp.

NOTODONTIDAE

Clostera albosigma
Clostera apicalis
Clostera inclusa
Clostera strigosa
Furcula borealis
Furcula occidentalis
Gluphisia avimacula
Gluphisia septentrionis
Heterocampa biundata
Nadata gibbosa
Nerice bidentata
Notodonta scitipennis
Notodonta simplaria
Odontosia elegans
Peridea ferruginea
Pheosia rimosa
Schizura ipomoeae
Schizura unicornis

PSYCHIDAE

Psychidae sp.

Olive-shaded Bird Dropping Moth
Large Mossy Lithacodia Moth
Pink-barred Lithacodia Moth or
Lithacodia carneola
Pink-spotted Dart
The Brother
Sociable Renia Moth
Primrose Moth
The Herald
Otter Spiramater
Northern Variable Dart Moth
Dot-and-Dash Swordgrass

Doubleday's Baileya
Eyed Baileya

Sigmoid Prominent
Apical Prominent
Angle-lined Prominent
Striped Chocolate Tip
White Furcula
Western Furcula
Four-spotted Gluphisia
Common Gluphisia
Wavy-lined Heterocampa
White-dotted Prominent
Double-toothed Prominent
Finned-willow Prominent
Simple Prominent
Elegant Prominent
Chocolate Prominent
Black-rimmed Prominent
Morning-glory Prominent
Unicorn Caterpillar Moth

Bagworm Moth

PYRALIDAE

Condylolomia participalis
Dioryctria zimmermani
Hypsopygia costalis
Pococera asperatella

Drab Condylolomia
Zimmerman Pinc Moth
Clover Hayworm
Maple Webworm

LIMACODIDAE

Euclea delphinii
Lithacodes fasciola
Tortricidia flexuosa
Tortricidia testacea

Spiny Oak-Slug Moth
Yellow-shouldered Slug Moth

Early Button Slug Moth

AMPHIPYRINAE

Conservula anodonta

Sharp Angle Shades

CRAMBIDAE

Anageshna primordialis
Anania funebris glomeralis
Arania sp.
Crambus agitellus
Crambus albellus
Crambus bidens
Crambus girardellus
Crambus saltuellus
Diacme adipaloides
Elophila icciusalis
Elophila oblitalis
Evergestis pallidata
Fumibotys fumalis
Herpetogramma aeglealis
Herpetogramma thestealis
Herpetogramma pertextalis
Lygropia rivulalis
Microcrambus elegans
Ostrinia obumbratalis
Palpita magniferalis
Pantographa limata
Paraponyx obscuralis
Pyrausta bicoloralis
Pyrausta orphisalis
Urola nivalis

Yellow-spotted Webworm Moth
White-spotted Sable Moth

Double-banded Grass-Veneer
Small White Grass-Veneer
Biden's Grass-Veneer
Girard's Grass-Veneer
Pasture Grass-Veneer
Dark Diacme
Pondside Crambid
Waterlily Leafcutter Moth
Purple-backed Cabbageworm Moth
Mint Root Borer
Serpentine Webworm Moth
Zigzag Herpetogramma
Bold-feathered Grass Moth
Bog Lygropia
Elegant Grass-Veneer Moth
Smartweed Borer Moth
Splendid Palpita
Basswood Leafroller
Obscure Pondweed Moth
Bicolored Pyrausta
Orange-spotted Pyrausta
Snowy Urola Moth

THYRIDIDAE*Thyris maculata*

Spotted Thyris

PTEROPHORIDAE*Dejongia lobidactylus*

Plume Moth

Geina tenuidactyla

Himmelman's Plume Moth

Platyptilia carduidactyla

Artichoke Plume Moth

Pterophoridae

Plume Moth

COSMOPTERIGIDAE*Limnaecia phragmitella*

Shy Cosmet

GRACILLARIIDAE*Caloptilia bimaculatella*

Maple Caloptilia

HEPIALIDAE*Sthenopsis auratus*

Gold-spotted Ghost Moth

TORTRICIDAE*Archips argyrospila*

Fruit-Tree Leafroller Moth

Archips dissiana

Boldly-marked Archips

Archips purpurana

Omnivorous Leafroller Moth

Argyrotaenia velutinana

Red-Banded Leafroller

Cenopsis diluticostana

Spring Dead-leaf Roller Moth

Cenopsis pettitana

Sparganothis Moth

Cenopsis reticulatana

Reticulated Sparganothis

Choristoneura rosaceana

Oblique-banded Leafroller Moth

Epiblema otiosana

Bidens Borer

Epiblema scudderiana

Scudder's Epiblema

Olethreutes exoletum

Wretched Olethreutes Moth

Olethreutes fasciatana

Banded Olethreute

Pandemis limitata

Three-lined Leafroller

Pandemis lamprosana

Woodgrain Leafroller

Sparganothis sulfureana

Sparganothis Fruitworm Moth

SESIIDAE*Synanthedon acerni*

Maple Callus Borer Moth

YPONOMEUTIDAE*Argyresthia oreasella*

Cherry Shoot Borer Moth

Swammerdamia caesiella

White-headed Moth

351 species, 20 November 2012

Diane Lepage, with additions by Ken Allison, Louis Handfield, C. Hanrahan, S. Rainville

Mowing down the Birds and the Butterflies

Christine Hanrahan

So, there you are, walking down a trail, enjoying the bounty of wildflowers, watching a monarch butterfly laying eggs, bees lazily buzzing as they gather pollen, a myriad of insects nectaring. It is a fine summer day, full of life and promise.



And then, a few days later, back you go, and horrors . . . all the vegetation has vanished. Mowed to the ground, everything destroyed, and the trail verges quiet and empty.

This scenario repeats, with slight variations, throughout the city of Ottawa, on both federally managed (National Capital Commission and other Crown) land, and on city-owned land. Mowing along roadsides to allow for good visibility is not in question, but excessive, extensive cutting of roadside verges and mowing of nature trails, is something that defies logic.



Many, if not most, NCC and City maintained nature trails are routinely mowed through the summer, constantly destroying flowering plants which provide nectar for a diversity of butterflies and beneficial insects. Furthermore, eggs and larvae of many butterfly species are destroyed. Nor do birds escape, for many species nest on the ground under or near shrubs, in tall vegetation, along verges.

Time was, mowing of natural areas a rare event. Trails used for skiing were perhaps mowed in autumn, many others were rarely touched. I can't recall when this peculiar trend toward treating natural areas as extensions of city streets began, but it must date back at least a dozen years.

It is not only nature trails that we should be concerned about. Huge swathes are regularly mowed along roads, far beyond what common sense would dictate for safety. Indeed, could it be that extreme mowing is as much a matter of aesthetics as perceived safety, our manic desire to "tidy up" nature? In so doing, we are destroying important habitats for many invertebrate species, as well as for birds and small mammals. Meadow type habitat and old fields, are on the decline here, as elsewhere, but the verges of roads and trails provide a linear substitute of sorts, with their mix of grass and wildflowers, so attractive to butterflies and other wildlife.

In Britain, roadside verges are recognized as important habitats. In the US, many states are now looking at their policies of continued summertime mowing of verges. Ottawa and the NCC would do well to review policies on this practice. We need to question why it is deemed necessary to mow nature trails, for one thing. And for another, we should be looking at how best to provide safe visibility along roads, while still maintaining floriferous verges. It can be done, but there must be a will before there is a way.

Mowing, however, is not *de facto* a bad thing. Left un-mowed, nature will reclaim open sites with trees and shrubs. It is less the fact of mowing and more the timing, that is so frustrating. In the first flush of summer, when plants are lushly blooming, and larval host plants are plentiful, encouraging butterflies to lay eggs, along comes the mower and kills off everything. Then, just when it is all growing back, it is once again decimated. We probably all have tales to tell of witnessing such destruction.

And so, *we* must educate the powers that be, about the importance of these roadside and trailside verges. We have to ask *why* the desire to mow natural areas and other places rich with flowers just when they are at their blooming best.

If you Google terms such as “impacts of roadside mowing on wildlife,” many articles, both scholarly and not, will pop up, providing many good talking points on this issue.

Family of Peregrine Falcons at the Data Centre: The Ottawa Falcon Watch¹

François Marshall

Last summer four peregrine falcons were living at the Data Centre building on Data Centre Road, near Heron Station. There were two parent falcons and two chicks. A group of volunteers from the Ottawa Peregrine Falcon Watch held an extensive watch that lasted from 14-22 June. On the final day, it was unanimously agreed that the chicks were flying sufficiently well. A volunteer of the watch discovered the family on 13 June, but the parents had been living at this site since last year, when they also had chicks. The family spent most of its time on the south side of the main building, sitting on its upper ledges. The first watch at the Data Centre ended very successfully, and the signs are promising for the next few years.

This is the first Falcon Watch held outside of downtown Ottawa. There had been one downtown, atop the Delta Plaza Hotel (101 Lyon Street), but on 13 June, news had come in that the eggs failed to hatch for the third successive year, and that the male adult had disappeared. After a successful breeding period that lasted for over a decade, three years of unsuccessful hatchings and the disappearance of the male adult have made it uncertain whether there will be more chicks to come at the Delta. With this realization, the news of this new family is a welcome sight.

As is standard practice for the Falcon Watch, the falcons are named. The father and mother are, respectively, Ivanhoe and Rowena, while the chicks are called Amber and Data by 22 June. The chicks had reached the point where they had learned to hunt, and from observations, they had succeeded in their introductory tests. For example, the last day of the watch saw Rowena dropping a pigeon carcass for Amber to catch on two occasions. Amber failed in the first attempt, but succeeded in the second. While Data had not been seen hunting, his flying skills had developed to the point where his flight was comparable to his parents, so it was unlikely that he had not already succeeded in such trials. If all went well, by fall the chicks more closely resembled their parents, and they migrated. The chicks are unlikely to return to the nesting site thereafter; however, the adults should be at the Centre next

¹ A version of this article, was originally published in the *Heron Park Herald's Community News* in Autumn 2012. Printed with permission.

year, and hopefully the next brood will be as successful in the coming summer as they were in 2012.

While no longer an endangered species, peregrines are still on the "threatened" list; all across the world are similar watches looking to participate in aiding their repopulation. The Peregrine Falcon Watch is held annually during the early part of summer. Its aim is to protect the young of breeding falcons, as they begin their flying lessons; these are the times when falcons face the greatest risk of injury. The watch, a program of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, was initiated by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in 1997 when the female peregrine, Horizon, laid eggs at the Delta Plaza. Volunteers monitor the chicks' daily activities in shifts during the daytime, and the watch continues until the falcons are deemed to be flying adequately. The role of the volunteers is most crucial when a chick fails in its first flying attempts.

In 2006, for example, a Delta Plaza chick named Odyssey, on two separate occasions, landed at ground level. When at ground level, they are exposed to different kinds of dangers, and in his case the main threat was clear: he had landed in the main driveway to the Delta's underground parking lot. The volunteers had to search for the chick, then bring him to a vet for examination. Through their interventions, the volunteers likely saved the chick, and he succeeded in his flying lessons thereafter.

At the Data Centre, there were at least three chicks, but one died before anyone contacted the watch members about the family. This was to be the only major incident in the watch, although Amber did experience some difficulty in her first flight. A volunteer found that Amber had landed in a tree, and that she was agitated by the presence of crows guarding their territory. Amber successfully returned to the south building, but it is on these occasions when volunteers need to be particularly aware of a chick's actions.

Peregrines lay their eggs every April, and chicks begin their flying lessons around mid- to late June, in accordance with the time of the year when prey is present in the greatest abundance and variety. By late June or early July, the chicks have learnt to fly, and they have been introduced to elements of hunting. Amber and Data learnt most of their fundamental lessons in a shorter time frame than had normally been observed in previous Delta watches. This is not surprising because the traffic at the Centre is less of an obstacle than in the downtown watch, giving the chicks more suitable landing options. If the chicks are flying for the first time then, in case of difficulty, they have the option to land in trees or on the shorter north building of the Centre. These were exactly the options Amber made use of in her initial attempts.

The new surroundings suggest that some of Odyssey's misadventures are less likely to recur.

Volunteers play a big part in the success of the peregrine repopulation effort. While peregrines are no longer endangered, they are still a species under threat. It is imperative that such activities as the Falcon Watch continue to help the progress of chicks. The next watch should begin some time in June, and by volunteering you will be witnessing some of the world's most iconic animals. In addition, the watch provides a good opportunity for those requiring voluntary work hours for school or university.

Please visit the falcon watch website, at <http://www.falconwatch.ca>, to find out more information about the Data Centre family, previous watches, general information, and how to participate.

About Peregrine Falcons

Peregrine falcons are crow-sized birds of prey with ochre-coloured coatings and white underbellies. After fledging, the chicks have reached the size of the parents, but are distinguished from them by their darkly speckled underbellies. Females are larger than males. So because a female chick is heavier, the male tends to fly first. Data took no time at all before he was flying at great heights, while Amber took a few days longer. In the early stages Data had the advantage in aerial maneuvers, but he had difficulty clinging onto ledges because he has a shorter wingspan. Rowena was more effective at landing because she used her larger wings to provide her with extra back lift.

Peregrine flight is dominated by periods of gliding, reminiscent to that of gulls and crows. One of the most exciting parts of the Falcon Watch is observing this process, during which the chicks are showing the greatest progress in their training. They are also among the most ruthless predators in the animal kingdom. Their limitless freedom to use the sky makes them perfect hunters to capture their prey, which range from pigeons and Blue Jays to American Wigeons and rodents. They kill their prey by diving through the sky at speeds of up to 330 km/h, creating a fatal impact with their sharp talons.

One of the most significant roles of the peregrine falcon occurs in ecosystem balance; removing the falcon creates an unbalanced community. Whole systems will malfunction when the predator at the top of the food chain is no longer present to reduce the numbers of certain types of animals. When the prey are free to increase their population, they may severely reduce their limited supply of resources, jeopardizing their own populations.

While hunting has had an impact on the peregrine population, the main reason for its decline lies in more recent developments. In the 1960s, ornithological surveys revealed that the peregrine population had, in some regions of the world, been reduced by fifty percent. This wide scale free fall, which had gone virtually unnoticed, was mainly a consequence of a new type of pesticide widely used from the 1940s onwards: DDT. Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane is a highly stable chemical compound; its structure makes it virtually immune to the effects of wear over time. But while DDT substantially increased crop supply, its constituent, Dichlorodiphenyldichloroethane or DDE, had far-reaching consequences. For example, falcons could die from eating crops containing DDT directly. However, they are more likely to die indirectly from eating "contaminated" prey animals. If some of these animals consumed crops containing DDT, then the DDE would accumulate in them and then ultimately in the falcons. DDE alters the metabolism of these falcons. The effects include the falcons' reduced ability of calcium uptake; in some twenty years after the introduction of DDT, the calcium in eggshells was reduced by 20%. Weaker eggshells allow the eggs to be easily crushed; almost all the affected eggs failed.

The net effect of DDT had left a great scar on the peregrine population, and it was necessary for government intervention to save the species from the inevitable extinction that would have otherwise followed. Many countries tightened their laws on pesticide policy, and a great effort was made to repopulate the species. Since the 1970s, The Peregrine Fund has made several breakthroughs in biological conservation, in its attempts to artificially increase the rate of successful eggs. The methods have ranged from less drastic measures, such as providing safe artificial environments for egg hatching and chick fledging, to artificial insemination. By the 1980s, the Fund had reached a remarkable rate of releasing a hundred peregrines per year. While the Fund has been one of the principle reasons for the survival of this species, its success is limited, and adequate repopulation will only be achieved through other collaborative efforts like falcon watches. The more people surveying these birds and their behaviour, the more peregrines will be saved, and the more the knowledge about this threatened species will spread.

Reference

Macdonald, Helen. 2006. *Falcon*, Reaktion Books, London, England.

Lanyards and Loupes for Sale

Fenja Brodo

There are new items for sale at our monthly sales table—green lanyards (with our club's logo in both French and English) and loupes (also known as hand lenses). Focus Scientific on Carling Avenue is our supplier of the loupes that we sell together with the lanyard for \$15 (or \$40 for a slightly better quality lens). Both kinds of lenses have 10x magnification and are 18 mm in diameter. The \$40 lens captures a bit more light. We sell the lanyards by themselves for \$3 each and they can be used to hold a variety of items such as keys, flash drives or identification badges.

Every naturalist should have a hand lens. This simple item opens up a whole miniature world to be enjoyed. With a mere \$15 investment you too can appreciate the differences among the petals of violets, the variation in head capsules of mosses, count the many eyes of a spider, appreciate the intricacies of form that separate various lichen species, and actually see the sand grains that make up Nepean Sandstone.

Contact Fenja (613-723-2054) or Ann Prescott (613-722-2154) if you wish to buy a loupe or just a lanyard.



Web Store
focusscientific.com
613-723-1350

**Binoculars - Monoculars - Spotting Scopes - Telescopes
Microscopes - Loupes - Tripods**



Kowa TSN-883 Spotting Scope
20-60x 88mm



Swarovski Swarovision EL
8.5x 42mm Binocular



FSc Stereo Microscope
7x to 45x Zoom

**Antares - Bushnell - Celestron - Kowa - Leica - Manfrotto - Minox - Motic
Nikon - Sky-Watcher - Steiner - Swarovski - Takahashi - Vortex - Zeiss**

Focus Scientific 911 Carling Ave. Ottawa ON K1Y 4E3

Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions & Lectures Committee.

For further information, check our website

www.ofnc.ca.

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader. Restricted trips will be open to non-members only after the indicated deadlines.

ALL OUTINGS: Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.

REGISTERED BUS TRIPS: Make your reservation for Club bus excursions by sending a cheque or money order (Payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) to Box 35069, Westgate P.O., Ottawa, Ontario, K1Z 1A2, at least ten days in advance. Include your name, address, telephone number and the name of the outing. Your cooperation is appreciated by the Committee so that we do not have to wait until the last moment to decide whether a trip should be cancelled due to low registration. In order for the Club to offer a bus trip, we need just over 33 people to register. If fewer than 30 register, we have the option of cancelling the trip or increasing the cost. Such decisions must be done a week in advance, so we encourage anyone who is interested in any bus trip to register as early as possible. We also wish to discourage postponing the actual payment of bus fees until the day of the event.

EVENTS AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE: The Club is grateful to the Museum for their cooperation, and thanks the Museum for the use of these excellent facilities. Attendees may have to pay \$5 parking per vehicle.

BIRD STATUS LINE: Phone 613-860-9000 to learn of recent sightings or birding potential in the Ottawa area. To report recent sightings use the 613-860-9000 number and stay on the line. This service is run on behalf of the Birds Committee and is available to members and non-members.

ESPECIALLY KID FRIENDLY EXCURSIONS: Kids are welcome on all of our trips. We have highlighted particular hikes as "especially kid friendly" as these are most likely to be enjoyed by typical children. Of course, depending on your child's/children's interests and stamina feel free to bring them along on any events. For events tailored to kids, check out the Macoun Field Club (<http://www.ofnc.ca/macoun/index.php>).

****Note that the OFNC website (ofnc.ca) contains the most up-to-date information on events. Please check it regularly for changes or additions to the events roster.****

**Saturday
12 January
1:00 p.m.
to
4:00 p.m.**

**CANADIAN NATIONAL COLLECTION OF INSECTS,
ARACHNIDS AND NEMATODES (CNC) VISIT**

Especially Kid friendly

Leaders: Owen Lonsdale, Fenja Brodo and Hume Douglas.

Meet: at 1:00 pm at the entrance to the Neatby Building (960 Carling Avenue). Park in the lot northeast of the entrance and get a parking pass from the security guard inside Neatby. Please be prompt. We need to meet you in the lobby and sign you in through security. Latecomers may not easily join the group.

Description: Come and explore the CNC with Owen, Fenja and Hume. With over 17 million pinned insects, this collection is one of the largest and most diverse in the world. Hundreds of scientists world-wide use the collection as a basis for their research and 32 Canadian scientists work in the collection facility. The CNC offers insights into insect taxonomy and phylogenetics, and is an important source of data to understand historical changes in global insect populations. Understanding invasive and native pests as well as beneficial and benign species revolves around this huge scientific resource. During your visit we will hopefully give you some insights into the research that we do while showing you some of the spectacular animals in our collection.

**Tuesday
15 January
7:00 p.m.
to
9:30 p.m.**

**OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

Location: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre.

Description: This is our annual meeting to elect incoming council members, summarize club finances and generally open the floor for any pressing issues related to the club. We are meeting at the Fletcher Wildlife Garden rather than the Museum so that we have a more informal atmosphere. We will have some snacks and refreshments to share. Come on out and help shape the future of your club.

Saturday
19 January
(rescheduled
from
December)
7:30 a.m.
to
7:00 p.m.

AMHERST ISLAND—OWLS AND MORE

Leader: Justin Peter: *jbpetr@yahoo.ca*; 613-858-3744.

Meet: Depart Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre at 7:30 a.m. sharp. Return to Ottawa approximately 7:00 p.m. We hope to arrange car pooling from Lincoln Fields. Please be prepared to make a contribution to the drivers for gas.

Description: This is a full-day excursion during which we will explore Amherst Island (near Kingston), which can be a winter-time haven for owls. Depending on the conditions, we might observe various species including Northern Saw-whet Owl, Snowy Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl and Barred Owl. We will also look for hawks, eagles, waterfowl, and anything else of interest.

We will use the ferry crossing at Millhaven (departures to Amherst Island 30 minutes past the hour) and plan to catch the 10:30 ferry. We plan to leave Amherst Island on the 4 p.m. or 5 p.m. ferry. The round trip cost for ferry service at time of printing is \$9 per car. There will be some walking over mainly level terrain. Wear warm, layered winter clothing and winter boots suitable for walking in snow. Bring a packable lunch, snacks, and thermos(es) with hot beverages. This trip will not proceed in case of sustained heavy rain, freezing rain or snow storm conditions that lead to adverse driving conditions. If in doubt, contact the trip leader.

Sunday
3 February
8:45 a.m.
to
3:00 p.m.
in
Merrickville

CROSS-COUNTRY SKI HIKE IN LIMERICK FOREST

Leader: Stew Hamill (613-269-3415).

Meet: 8:45 a.m. at Lincoln Fields parking lot, northeast corner near Pizza Pizza (Richmond Rd and Assaly Rd) for carpooling and directions to Merrickville ON, coordinator Fenja Brodo (613-723-2054). **OR** at 10:00 a.m. at The Village Bean Coffee House, 205B Saint Lawrence Street, Merrickville ON.

Description: This is an 8 km return hike to the Scotch Line boardwalk in Limerick Forest at Merrickville. The short boardwalk overlooks the Wolford Bog, an ANSI and provincially significant wetland. The hike will be about 4 km in and 4 km back on an easy trail through woodland the entire way. Other factors, besides the distance, to consider are temperature and snow depth. Snow conditions may change how we travel on the trail and the boardwalk. This hike will be coordinated with the Friends of Limerick Forest. Bring a lunch and a warm drink. Dress for the weather. Weather conditions that would cancel the event include snowstorm and freezing rain.

****Note that the OFNC website (*ofnc.ca*) contains the most up-to-date information on events. Please check it regularly for changes or additions to the events roster.****

**Saturday
9 February
9:00 a.m.
to
3:00 p.m.**

ANIMAL TRACKING

Leader: Carolyn Callaghan (819 455-1087).

Meet: 9:00 a.m. near the Pizza Pizza in the northeast corner of the Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre parking lot, off Richmond Road at Assaly Road **OR** 10:00 a.m. at 611 chemin Cregheur Luskville QC.

**(snow date:
10 February
same timing)**

Description: Join Carolyn on an outing as we look for tracks of some of the following species: weasel, deer, wolf, mice, pine martin, porcupine, squirrel, moose and otter. She will give an introductory talk and will provide reference materials prior to the walk. Bring a lunch and a hot drink. Dress for the weather. Snowshoes are recommended, warm boots are acceptable if the snow is not too deep. Bring your animal track guide books to enrich your knowledge.

A snow date will be chosen if there is a storm or significant snowfall, i.e. more than a skiff, ending within 8 hours of the start time. If in doubt, call Carolyn or check events on the website at *ofnc.ca*.

**Sunday
10 February
1:00 p.m.
to
4:00 p.m.**

ARTHROPODS OF YOUR HOME

Especially Kid friendly

Leaders: Jeff Skevington (613-832-1970), Hume Douglas and Wayne Knee.

Location: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre.

Description: If you have ever wondered what the creepy crawlies that share your home are, this event is for you. Microscopes, books and real specimens will help participants see and appreciate these animals. We will be sharing a few microscopes so please bring your own hand lens if you have one (if you don't, you can purchase one at OFNC monthly meetings). We really hope that participants will also BYOB—that's right, bring your own bugs. If you can, bring them alive. If not, put them into a container and store in the freezer until the event.

Tuesday
12 February
7:00 p.m.
Social &
Club business

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
NATURAL AREA PROTECTION IN THE OTTAWA
REGION BY THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF
CANADA

Speakers: Caroline Gagné (Québec Office) and Brenda Van Sleeuwen (Ontario Office)

Location: Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

7:30 p.m.
Formal
program

Description: The Nature Conservancy of Canada protects special natural areas in Canada by using a toolbox that includes purchase, easements, and other types of agreements with landowners. Every project involves fund-raising. Projects often include several partners. This presentation will describe the toolbox by giving examples from both provincial sides of the Ottawa Valley.

Saturday
16 February
6:00 p.m.
to
9:30 p.m.

MUDPUPPY NIGHT

Especially Kid friendly

Leader: Fred Schueler (613-258-3107 or bckcdb@istar.ca).

Meet: 6:00 p.m. at the northeast corner of the Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre parking lot, off Richmond Road at Assaly Road to carpool, **OR** at the parking lot beside the dam in the village of Oxford Mills, 44.96481N 75.67827W, at 7:00 p.m.

Description: Come out to count, catch live, touch, examine, and learn all about Canada's largest salamander, which is often mistaken by ice-fishers as a missing link in evolution. The Oxford Mills dam seems to be the best place in this species' global range for observing it during its period of winter activity. Bring your brightest handheld light or headlamp, and your tallest rubber boots to wade in the stream, or your warmest winter boots to keep warm next to the stream. Dress very warmly, as you will spend 1.5 hours outdoors.

If the weather creates dangerous driving conditions, this outing will be postponed to Saturday, 23 February. If in doubt, please call Fred.

****Note that the OFNC website (ofnc.ca) contains the most up-to-date information on events. Please check it regularly for changes or additions to the events roster.****

Sunday
17 February
9:00 a.m.
to
12 noon

NATURE IN WINTER FOR BEGINNERS

Especially Kid friendly

Leaders: Dave Moore and Bev McBride.

Meet: Jack Pine Trail, parking lot P9 at 9:00 a.m.

Description: Dress for the weather, bring unsalted seeds or peanuts for the chickadees and nuthatches and a warm drink/snaek for yourself. Registration required, limited to 12 people. Register: redstart@vif.com or 613-729-9330.

Saturday
2 March
8:00 a.m.
to
12 noon

BIRDING EAST OF OTTAWA

Leader: John Cartwright (613-789-6714).

Meet: Elmvale Aeres Shopping Mall (St Laurent Ave. at Smyth Ave.), near Kelsey's Restaurant.

Description: We will be looking for winter visitors and/or early migrants. Depending on reports, we will focus either on the Mer Bleu area or the roads toward Navan and beyond. Dress according to weather conditions. Bring hot drinks, snaeks, binoculars and a scope if you have one. A storm will cancel this outing.

Sunday
10 March
1:00 p.m.

INVASIVE PLANTS—why we need to be concerned and what we can plant instead

Speaker: Iola Price.

Location: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre.

Iola will talk about some of the problem plants that may be in our gardens, in our woodlots, our meadows, wetlands and road edges and what we might do about them. She will diseuss the work of the Ontario Invasive Plant Council (OIPC), the documents that it has produced to date and what work is being done by volunteers here in Ottawa. She will bring other OIPC publications.

Tuesday
12 March
7:00 p.m.
Social &
Club business

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
BIRDING CENTRAL AND NORTHERN CHINA
Speaker: Mark Gawn.
Location: Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.
Description: Long off limits to western travelers, China has emerged as a frontier destination for bird watchers. Join Mark Gawn for a presentation that will highlight some of the birds and other critters that inhabit the extensive temperate forests, lofty, snow capped mountains and extensive plains of central and northern China.

7:30 p.m.
Formal
program

Sunday
17 March
1:00 p.m.
to
4:00 p.m.

LICHEN WORKSHOP
Leader: Irwin (Ernie) Brodo (613-723-2054).
Location: Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre.
This will be an opportunity to look at common, local lichens up-close, under a microscope and with a hand lens. Basic lichen terminology will be covered as well as the use of lichen keys to distinguish and identify species. Bring in your own lichens if you wish, but paper-wrapped, not in plastic (because that causes mold!). Register with Ernie as this workshop is limited to the first 12 people who register.

Tuesday
9 April
7:00 p.m.
Social &
Club business

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING
THE CHALLENGES AND JOYS OF BIRDING IN WEST PAPUA, INDONESIA
Speaker: Jeff Skevington.
Location: Canadian Museum of Nature, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets.

7:30 p.m.
Formal
program

Description: The few lucky people who find themselves in New Guinea usually end up on the southern side of the island in Papua New Guinea. Indonesian New Guinea (West Papua and Papua, formerly known as Irian Jaya) is arguably safer, but much more difficult to travel in. Jeff will share his experiences from a trip to West Papua in Oct/Nov 2012. West Papua is loaded with spectacular birds and habitats and Jeff will show his and Niels Dreyer's photos and videos of some of the most sought after Birds-of-Paradise seen during their visit.

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**Saturday
20 April
7:00 p.m.
to
10:00 p.m.**

OFNC SOIREE

Especially Kid friendly

Location: Enter from Maitland Avenue (east side) just north of the Queensway. **BUS ACCESS:** Bus #85 (along Carling Avenue), get off at Maitland Avenue and walk south on Maitland towards the Queensway for 0.5 kms (~ 7 minute walk).

Description: Join us for some fun at our annual wine and cheese party and celebrate with the honoured winners of our Annual Awards. Photographers and artists are encouraged to exhibit pictures for everyone to enjoy. Kids, bring your natural history displays. Back by popular demand this year is the Natural History Trivia Quiz! See the centrefold of this issue for more information.

**Sunday
28 April
8:00 a.m.
to
early
afternoon**

EARLY MIGRANTS AT PARC NATIONAL DE PLAISANCE

Leader: Mark Gawn.

Meet: Parc national de Plaisance entrance on rue Galipeau, just north of the ferry dock in Thurso, Québec.

Description: The park holds the largest wetlands in the Ottawa area, and the trip is timed to coincide with the tail end of the spring waterfowl migration. Expect to see many ducks along with early passerine migrants. The trip will proceed rain or shine, waterproof footwear are recommended. Bring binoculars and a spotting scope if you have one as some viewing will be distant. There is \$6 fee to visit the park, payable on entry. The trip will end in the early afternoon, final stop will be a casse-croûte with some of the region's best poutine (but bring a snack to tide you over until then!)

Dinner Time



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DEADLINE: *Material intended for the April - June issue must be in the editor's hands by 1 February, 2013. Mail your manuscripts to:*

Karen McLachlan Hamilton

2980 Moodie Drive, Nepean, ON, K2J 4S7

H: (613) 838-4943; email: hamilton@storm.ca

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